

CONG. PIDI TO MANILA BAY TASK FORCE: WE NEED TO EYE FOR A LONG-TERM SOLUTION

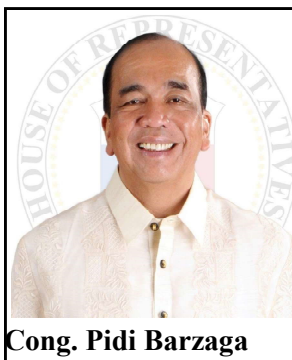
On the first day of the resumption of session in Congress, January 20, 2020, Cong. Pidi Barzaga chaired a committee hearing to discuss various updates on the Manila Bay Rehabilitation and the clean-up of water tributaries leading to it.

Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ground commander of the Manila Bay Task Force, reported that there has been a notable decrease in the fecal coliform content of the water Manila Bay indicative its improving quality. Moreover, he reported that dredging of esteros has already begun and that solid waste in the waterways leading to it, as well as on the surface of the bay, have been reduced significantly. Nonetheless, Cong. Pidi emphasized that despite the mentioned improvements, a 'long-term solution' should still be sought and this is only possible if one is to prioritize the resettlement of the informal settlers along the bay.

Usec. Epimaco V. Densing III of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) agreed as he pointed out that 80 percent of the pollution in Manila Bay comes from informal-settler families. Hence, as the chairman of

the House Committee on Natural Resources, Cong. Pidi requested the National Housing Authority (NHA) start to coordinate with concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) in order to have an accurate gauge of the number of families that have to be relocated so an estimate of the needed budget for it be proposed in the 2021 National Budget. Concerned LGUs' executives are expected to appear in the next scheduled committee hearing. Cong. Pidi concluded the committee hearing saying, "We should be proactive enough to have concrete results before our term ends."

The battle for Manila Bay, if successful, would give hope to other rivers, streams, and bays humans have polluted. Hence, Cong. Pidi urged all concerned units to present more detailed reports of their accomplishments. These include reports on the setting up of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STP) by Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewer-



Cong. Pidi Barzaga

age System (MWSS), Manila Water and Maynilad and the specific solid waste management strategies to be adopted by LGUs such as garbage hauling and construction of own sanitary landfills.

PGC Opens Door for Donations



With the increasing number of evacuees in Cavite following the Taal Volcano eruption, the Provincial Government has opened its doors for donations to help the displaced families from Batangas who fled to different municipalities and cities in Cavite to find temporary shelter and ensure their safety.

Metrobank Foundation Incorporated through its Executive Director, Mr. Nick Torres, together with Metrobank Cavite Area Head Ms. Dianne Sierra, and Metrobank Cavite Purple Hearts Club Chapter President Ms. Mira Ordoñez immediately responded to the call for donations and brought various relief goods to evacuation areas in Alfonso, Mendez and the

City of Dasmariñas for the displaced families from Batangas.

The team from Metrobank, as accompanied and assisted by the representatives of PGC distributed relief goods such as food supplies, clothes, hygiene kits, blankets and mats to the 257 evacuee families in Mendez. Afterwards, they proceeded to Alfonso and distributed mats and blankets to 375 families in Alfonso Central School, 55 families in Alfonso Covered Court, 48 families in Matagbak Elementary School and 98 families in Marahan Elementary School, with a total of 576 families as recipients. Finally, in Barangay San isidro Labrador 2 and Barangay San Manuel 2, City of Dasmariñas, there were still 67 sets of blankets and mats distributed to the evacuees.

Metrobank Foundation Incorporated, the cor-

porate social responsibility arm of Metrobank has been undertaking a wide array of social development programs in key sectors such as education, visual arts and health care. Furthermore, the Purple Hearts Club also known as Gintong Puso ng mga Carerubins, with its various chapters in different areas, has compassionately reached out to indigent communities and provided social welfare assistance for the people.

In behalf of the evacuees, the representatives of the Provincial Government of Cavite as well as the local officials of Mendez, Alfonso and the City of Dasmariñas expressed their gratefulness to the Metrobankers led by its Foundation's Executive Director, Mr. Torres for this very noble activity.

- Provincial Information and Community Affairs Department

Municipality of Carmona, Cavite

The Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta is coming to town and it's here in Carmona, Cavite!

For the frequently asked questions (FAQs), you may visit <https://philballoonfest.net/faqs>.

See you all on March 6, 7, and 8!

#PIHABFinCarmona

What Pinoys need to know about nCoV Philippine volcano recharging, scientist says, as shops, hotels told to keep shut

MANILA -- As the number of cases and deaths due to novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV continues to rise, the Department of Health (DOH) has met these reports with equally heightened monitoring of patients who have been suffering from "flu-like" symptoms while visiting the country.

Apart from clinical tests on people suspected of carrying the virus, the DOH's Bureau of Quarantine has placed thermal scanners at the airports for quick surveillance of potential cases.

As the government exerts effort to prevent the virus from entering the Philippines, ordinary Filipinos should arm themselves of knowledge on how to do their part to protect themselves from being infected.

Origin

The World Health Organization (WHO) received reports of several cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan City, China on Dec. 31, 2019. Wuhan City is considered as ground zero of the outbreak.

Initial investigation showed the virus which caused the pneumonia did not match any other known virus.

On January 7, Chinese authorities identified the new strain as 2019-nCoV belonging to a family of viruses that include the common colds and the more serious ones — Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

To date, there are more than 830 confirmed 2019-nCoV cases and 26 deaths linked to the virus in China.

Symptoms

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people get infected with coronaviruses with symptoms ranging from typically mild to moderate and it can cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses like pneumonia and bronchitis in some cases.

The CDC added such viruses are common among animals but can evolve and spread from animals to humans, hence, the existence of SARS and MERS coronaviruses.

In a health advisory, the DOH said its symptoms include cough and colds, fever, difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath.

Aside from pneumonia and bronchitis, the DOH said its symptoms could lead to kidney problems and even death.

No confirmed nCoV case in PH

DOH Undersecretary Rolando Domingo, in a media briefing on January 24, said: "There is no verified nCoV case in the country until now".

The DOH said specimen samples from the five-year-old Chinese boy suspected of having the virus was tested negative.

The test was performed at the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Labora-

tory in Melbourne, Australia.

On Jan. 21, 2020, the DOH disclosed that the boy, manifesting pneumonia-like symptoms and with a history of travel from Wuhan, China, was admitted in Cebu City for observation.

After yielding a positive result for the pancoronavirus assay, oropharyngeal and serum specimens from him were sent to Australia for identification of the specific coronavirus strain.

Three other Chinese nationals, who arrived at the Kalibo International Airport and went to Boracay, were first suspected to have the illness but turned out to be negative.

Another suspected case

Domingo said a 36-year-old American male from Tacloban is suspected of having contracted the virus but he has not been clinically screened.

"Even the one in Tacloban is a suspected case of new coronavirus. Wala pa naman siyang positive test for the pancoronavirus (He doesn't have a positive test result for the pancoronavirus yet)," he added.

Pancoronavirus screening is a test done on a person suspected of contracting a strain of coronavirus.

Prevention

Regular handwashing can prevent the spread of nCov, the DOH said in its health advisory.

"Iwasan and kontak sa mga hayop, umiwas sa mga may ubo at sipon at takpan ang bibig at ilong kapag umuubo at bumabahing (Avoid contact with animals, avoid those who have cough and colds and to always cover one's mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing)," it added.

The DOH also stressed the importance of drinking plenty of water, proper cooking of food, and consultation with a health facility if symptoms of cough and colds persist, especially if they come from Wuhan, China.

Citing the outbreak of the virus in China, Domingo advised the public to temporarily suspend their travel to the country.

"It might be prudent to delay the flight

until the disease is completely understood and it is more contained," he added.

Not a public health emergency of int'l concern

In a statement, the WHO said the Wuhan nCoV "is not a public health emergency of international concern as its emergency status is contained in China".

WHO defined a public health emergency of international concern as "an extraordinary event" constituting a "public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response."

Philippine volcano recharging, scientist says, as shops, hotels told to keep shut

MANILA (Reuters) - A restive volcano in the Philippines has a high risk of eruption as it is "recharging" with fresh magma and rising emissions of toxic gas, a top scientist said on Monday, while authorities ordered commercial establishments to stay shut.

Earthquakes were still happening at the Taal volcano, which shot giant clouds of ash miles into the air on Jan. 12, and levels of the gas were rising, a sign of the magma "recharging" and "resupplying" beneath it, a Philippine volcanologist said.

"If it reaches the crater, it could cause a strong explosion," Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), told DZMM radio.

Authorities have thrown a 14-km (9-mile) exclusion zone around the volcano, with experts saying an eruption could bring a devastating rain of rocks and magma and unleash a tsunami in the lake around it.

To keep the virus from spreading, the WHO recommended exit screening at airports as part of a comprehensive set of containment measures, set up of mechanisms and measures to detect cases of coronavirus and reiteration on hand hygiene and cough etiquette. (PNA)

Graphic: Earthquake activity near Philippine volcano Taal <https://tmsnr.rs/2sJlycI>

Several establishments reopened last week in the tourist resort of Tagaytay after the volcano, 70 km (45 miles) from the capital, Manila, had shown signs of calming, but authorities urged them to heed orders to close.

"We asked them to cease operations so no tourists or locals would be lured to that area," Epimaco Densing, an undersecretary of the interior ministry, told reporters.

Just 311 meters (1,020 feet) high, Taal is one of the world's smallest active volcanoes, but it can be deadly, having killed more than 1,300 people in an eruption in 1911.

More than 100,000 people have abandoned

homes around the volcano and flocked to evacuation centres after it blanketed homes, schools, and farms with ash.

The education ministry said it was ready to send teachers to run classes for more than 1 million students in nearby towns after displaced people had to be accommodated in some schools.

No deaths have been reported and the volcano's impact has proved just a blip for the \$330-billion national economy, despite cancelled flights and a day of work lost on Jan. 12 because of a heavy fall of ash in Manila.

Taal has erupted more than 30 times in the past five centuries, most recently in 1977. The Philippines lies on the "Ring of Fire", a belt of volcanoes girdling the Pacific Ocean that is also prone to earthquakes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All comments and opinions submitted by our contributing writers and herein published shall remain as personal opinion of our column writers. Viewliner shall not be held liable to any legal issues related to any commentaries that may appear herein.



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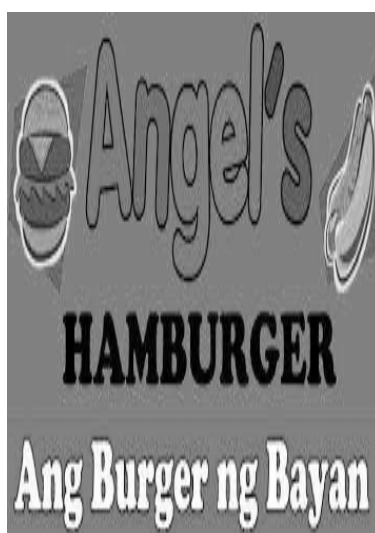
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Weekly Horoscope

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) Ipakita ang kakayahan sa isang Taurus na nililigawan. May pakakataon para matupad ang pinapangarap kung magiging matiyaga at masakip sa iyong pag-aaral. Laging maging handa. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 19, 25, 29 at beige.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) Magtatagumpay sa binabalak na negosyo, kapag ang life partner ang kasama mo sa pagtataguyod nito. Maaa-ring magiging malubak ang daan sa simula, pero magpakatatag dahil nasa landas mo ang tagumpay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 11, 13, 21, 29 at indigo.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) Sino man ang wala sa grupo, siya ang nagiging paksa ng usapan. Magbibigay ng kabuluhan ang magandang payo na matatanggap kung ia-apply ito sa gawa. Ibigay ang nararapat sa taong pinangkuan. Huwag kang paasa. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 11, 19, 39 at sky blue.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) Kung ano man ang kwento mo sa iyong kapwa, 'yan ang mararanasan mo. Lahat ng maaa-ring maranasan ay nagsisimula sa bawat mong hinahangad. Maging matalino sa pagtunton kung anong landas ang gusto mong marating. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 9, 18, 21, 31 at bottle green.

GEMINI: (May.21-Hun. 21) Makulay ang romansa kapag dumating ang sorpresa. Tapusin ang gawain para ma-enjoy ng husto ang oras ninyo ng iyong mahal. Nakatakda kang pagpalain sa mga mabuting gawain. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 15, 23, 27 at violet.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) Purihin ang ina para matamo ang swerteng hinahangad. Kung pananatilihin ang positibong pag-iisip, walang hindi malalampasan. Huwag lang ipagsawalang bahala ang kalusugan para walang maging hadlang sa iyong mga balak. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 9, 15, 25, 41 at green.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) Masaya ang biruan kapag hindi umabot sa asaran. Positibo ang paraang kailangan para akitin ang suwerte. Huwag haluan ng ilegal na gawain para hindi maunsiyami ang bawat hakbang. Makinig sa payo ng nagmamalasakit. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 5, 9, 15, 33, 43 at ivory.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) Isang desisyon ang haharapin. Ang payo ng kaibigan ay dapat pakinggan dahil maaasahan ang tunay nilang pagmamalasakit sa iyong kapakanan. Baguhin ang ganitong ugali, bago ka pa makahanap ng katapat. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 17, 31, 41 at fuchsia pink.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) Lahat ng issue sa araw na ito ay madaling malulutas, kapag ang iyong kalooban ay maaliwalas. Kaya lumayo sa tsismisan at tiyakin na hindi masangkot sa gulo para hindi ka malagay sa alanganing situwasyon. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 17, 21, 35 at lavender.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) Masigla ka sa buong araw at maraming gawain ang matatapos. Huwag basta magdesisyon sa isang bagay, lalo na kung kakailanga-ning maglabas ng malaking halaga. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 15, 19, 22, 39 at blue.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) Isaisip at iayon sa tibok ng puso ang mga bagay na may kaugnayan sa pakikipagrelasyon. Hindi dapat pinaghahalo ang love life sa iyong trabaho. Kung pamilyado na, tantanan na ang paglalaro ng apoy. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 11, 27, 37, 45 at tangerine.

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) Masayang balita mula sa internet ang matatanggap. Pero kung ito ay nag-aalok ng investment na nanga-ngako ng agaran at malakihang kita, mag-isip muna dahil posibleng ma-scam ka. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 25, 39, 41 at pink.

Hindi ordinaryong tulong ni Cayetano

NAGLULUNDAGAN sa galak ang karamihan sa mga Batangueño na biktima ng Taal volcano eruption dahil hindi sila kinalimutang pabayaan at sinuportahan ng Kamara sa pangunguna ni House Speaker Alan Cayetano et al.

Sabi nga, thank you Lord for helping and sup-

porting us!

Sabi ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, kambal na resolusyon ang pinagtibay ng House sa ginawang sesyon sa Batangas City na tutulong sa mga biktima ng Taal.

Sabi nga, ito ang HR 662 na sumusuporta sa P30 bilyon na hiling ni Boss

DOT to help tourism recovery once Taal calms down

MANILA -- The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Friday assured it is ready to assist in promotions and coordinate with concerned agencies on the recovery of tourism establishments affected by the restive Taal Volcano once the situation stabilizes.

"First, when it comes to promotions, we're ready. But in terms of projects, we will be coordinating with the NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority), sila'yong nagpapatawag for the recovery (they're the ones tasked on the recovery)," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat told reporters in a press conference in Makati City.

Romulo-Puyat said the government is focused on helping evacuees who were forced to flee their homes when the volcano spewed steam and ash which covered Batangas and other provinces in southern Luzon.

"Now, maybe it's too early but we are, from day one, we've already been coordinating with the NEDA. We have committed already depending on what they think is the need but it has to be coordinated with the NEDA," she said.

Meanwhile, Romulo-Puyat reiterated calls on businesses to heed the Phil-

ippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's (Phivolcs) advice since ordering tourism establishments to halt operations does not fall within DOT's mandate.

Taal Volcano remains under alert level 4, which means a hazardous eruption is possible within hours or days.

"Again, we came up with the statement that the safety of the workers and the tourists are more important than the numbers. Of course, in Tagaytay, tourism is the main occupation, but for us, we will always follow the guidance of Phivolcs," she said.

"Always follow Phivolcs and of course they are always guided by DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government)," she added.

She underscored that the country remains safe for foreign tourists, adding other Philippine destinations remain "totally unaffected" by the recent volcanic eruption.

"The only one disrupted was in Taal, there had been no disruption in Clark. It was successfully diverted, only that part, but our top tourist spots --Boracay and Cebu-- (they are) totally unaffected," she said. (PNA)

Digong na supplemental budget para sa mga victim ng Taal at ang HR 655 na humihiling na ipalabas sa lalong madaling panahon ang pondo para sa mga relief efforts at programa para sa mga biktima ng trahedyang at kalamidad.

Ayon sa mga asset ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, Napakaganda ng ginawang sesyon ng kamara sa Batangas Convention Center.

Kaya kami ay nagpapasalamat na dinadamayan nila.

Sabi nga hanga sila sa kanilang malasakit sa

madlang Taal victims.

Pati si Cong. Raniel Abu ng Batangas ay nagpasalamat kay Speaker Cayetano dahil sa determinasyon nito na matulungan ang mga biktima ng pag-alburoto ng bulkang Taal.

Isinama kasi ni Cayetano ang mga kapwa kongresista para sa Batangas gawin ang sesyon ng Kamara para mapakinggan ang hinaing at mga pinagdaraanang mga biktima ng kalamidad.

Korek ka r'yan, Cong Abu!

Iba kasi ang may malasakit sa kapwa!

Maribeth De Villa Marticio?MGA ORASYON AT PREDIKSYON. DAGDAG KAALAMAN ISPIRITWAL.

LEAVE WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND LET US PRAY For Miracle Financial prayers !! (just 1 minutes)

Dear God, I stand in front of you now to ask for a financial blessing to help me in my life. My faith keeps me going I know that you will provide what I need and what the people I love need. I don't want a big amount of money. I don't want to ask you for unnecessary things or extra comfort ... Lord, thank you for your greatness. Thank you that when I am weak, you are strong. Lord, the Devil is scheming and I know he desires to keep me from spending time with you. Don't let him win! Give me a measure of your strength so that I might not give into discouragement, deception and doubt! Help me honor you in all my ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Lord, help me let go of my fear of failure. I know Satan wants to use my fears to hold me back from living boldly for You. Forgive me for not living in faith, and help me from this moment on to live with bold confidence in You. Lord, help me not compare myself to others around me. I pray instead that I can keep my eye on You and live a life that proclaims Your excellence. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

God is going to shift things around for you today and let things work in your favor.

WEEKLY REPORT
on the Activities & Programs of
Carmona

Carmona LGU holds community meeting on Taal Volcano Situation

A community meeting was held by the Carmona Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) alongside various non-government organizations and companies on January 16, 2020 at the municipal penthouse to discuss about the updates regarding the status of Taal volcano. It was also said during the meeting that each member of the community is encouraged to help in cleaning the ashfall that covered Carmona. Moreover, a meeting with the Homeowners Association officers was held on January 17, 2020 to discuss the process on how the local government would collect the volcanic ashes gathered during clean-ups. On January 20, 2020, another meeting was held involving Industrial Estates administrators and representatives to tackle about the clean-up drives in their vicinity.



Congresswoman Dahlia Loyola visits host families in Carmona



Fifth district of Cavite representative Dr. Dahlia A. Loyola, alongside the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office and Municipal Health Office, visited the families in different barangays of Carmona on January 17, 2020 who gave shelter to their affected relatives from Batangas due to the Taal volcano eruption. Relief goods were also distributed as well as medical assistance to the families.

Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola inspects schools after ash clean-up



Carmona local chief executive Atty. Roy M. Loyola visited the public schools in the municipality on January 21, 2020 to inspect its situation after the side by side clean-up operations done by the local government and volunteers due to the ashfall from the Taal volcano which spread across Carmona. Students in Carmona returned to school on the said date after a week-long class suspension to ensure their safety from the harmful volcanic ash that may affect their health.



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Various stakeholders in Carmona team-up for simultaneous clean-up drive



On January 18, 2020, Carmona municipal government employees, civil society organizations, companies, and residents joined forces to do a massive simultaneous clean-up drive to eliminate the volcanic ashes spewed by the Taal volcano during the eruption which surrounded the municipality. This is to minimize the health risks that may affect the community members because of the harmful volcanic ash.

Carmona donates to San Nicolas, Batangas



As led by fifth district of Cavite representative Dahlia A. Loyola, the Municipality of Carmona gave 500 food packs to the affected families from the Taal volcano eruption in San Nicolas, Batangas on January 19, 2020 through their Mayor Lester D. De Sagun with their Sangguniang Bayan Members.